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times to the surface, until they have at last found their prey. They then seize it with their beak by the middle, and carry it without fail to their master. When the fish is too large, they then give each other mutual assistance: one seizes it by the head, the other by the tail, and in this manner carry it to the boat together. There the boatman stretches out one of his long oars, on which they perch, and being delivered of their burden, they fly off to pursue their sport. When they are wearied, he lets them rest for a while; but they are never fed till their work is over. In this manner they supply a very plentiful table; but still their natural gluttony cannot be reclaimed even by education. They have always, while they fish, the same string fastened round their throats, to prevent them from devouring their prey, as otherwise they would at once satiate themselves, and discontinue the pursuit the moment they had filled their bellies."

The birds breed in communities, and where the ground or rocks will admit, their nests are placed closely together. On the last of July, 1880, I found the birds breeding in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, on the sides of the cliffs on Bonaventure Isle, and on the top of Perce Rock. The latter cannot be climbed, and nearly all the nests upon the isle were beyond reach; those examined, however, had young birds from half to nearly full grown, and hundreds of little fellows could be seen either upon their nests or standing near by upon the rock. The birds are very filthy, and the stench about their breeding-grounds sickening. Their nests are made of sticks, moss from the rocks, and sea-weed. Eggs, three or four—2.50x1.56; pale bluish-green, coated with a white chalky substance, but more or less stained in their dirty nests; in form, elongate ovate.

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ADDITIONS TO THE CATALOGUE OF THE BIRDS OF KANSAS—WITH  
NOTES IN REGARD TO THEIR HABITS, ETC.

BY N. S. GOSS.

THE WESTERN GREBE.

(*Aechmophorus occidentalis* Lawr.)

Habitat, western North America, eastward to Manitoba; accidental in Kansas.

For this addition to our list, we are indebted to Prof. F. H. Snow, who reports that a young male was killed November 3, 1887, on the Kansas river, at Lawrence. The birds are quite common on the northwestern part of the continent; breeding in reeds, ponds and lakes, east to northern Dakota and Manitoba; wintering along the Pacific coast south into Lower California; but this capture east of the Rocky Mountains is the first mention that I can find of their appearance south of their breeding-grounds. I have noticed this large species at San Diego several times; and in the winter and early spring of 1882 I had a good opportunity to observe them on the waters of Puget Sound. The birds ride the water lightly, and their silky plumage, slender build, long, waving necks and graceful carriage can but attract the attention of the most indifferent of observers. It ranks high among the water birds, and is, by right, the queen of the family. Like all of the race, they are expert swimmers and divers, and can quietly sink out of sight in the water, without an apparent motion; but their natural mode of diving is to spring with a stroke of their feet, almost clearing the water, and disappearing about three feet from the starting-point. They are at home on the waves, and it is almost impossible to force the birds to take wing; but when in the air fly with great rapidity, with neck and feet stretched out to their full extent, and in alighting, often do not attempt to slacken their speed, but strike the water with partially closed wings, with a force that carries them on the surface from twenty to forty feet.

Their nests are usually built on broken-down reeds or rushes, growing in water from two to three feet deep, and made of decayed vegetation brought up from the bottom. Eggs, two to five; dull bluish-white. A set of four eggs collected at Devil's Lake, Dakota, June 1, 1884, measured 2.20x1.47, 2.26x1.47, 2.30x1.49, 2.32x1.50; in form, vary from elliptical ovate to elongate ovate.

Two sets of eggs, one of four, the other of five, taken by Capt. Chas. Bendire, May 28, 1883, on a marsh in Klamath county, Oregon, average 2.31x1.52. He writes that they often lay seven eggs, and possibly more.

THE SURF SCOTER.

(*Oidemia perspicillata* Linn.)

Habitat, northern North America; south in winter to Jamaica, Florida, Ohio river, Kansas, and Lower California; accidental in Europe. A rare visitant; captured October 29, 1887, on the Kansas river, above the dam at Lawrence, by Mr. A. L. Bennett, of Emporia.

This species of the Sea Duck is abundant upon both coasts, and during the breeding season, quite common upon the large northern inland waters; breeding from Sitka, Alaska, and the Gulf of St. Lawrence north to the Arctic coast. Their food consists largely of shell-fish, (the bivalve a favorite, the shells of which appear to digest as easily as the mussels within them,) fishes and various forms of life also help to make up the bill of fare. Their flesh is coarse, and in flavor rather rank. The birds are at home as well in the surging surf as upon the smoother waters; resting and sleeping at night out upon the open waters, they rise from the same in a running, laborious manner, but when fairly on the wing, fly rapidly, and in stormy weather hug close to the water. While feeding, are very active, constantly and rapidly diving one after the other, a continual disappearing and popping up.

From the following, it appears that the birds nest upon both marshy and dry ground, and in the latter case, with no material except down, viz.: Audubon describes a nest found (near Little Macatino, Gulf of St. Lawrence) well out upon a marsh, as snugly placed amid the tall leaves of a bunch of grass, and raised fully four inches above its roots. It was composed of withered and rotten weeds, the former being circularly arranged over the latter, producing a well-rounded cavity, six inches in diameter, by two and one-half in depth. The borders of this inner cup were lined with the down of the bird, in the same manner as the Eider Duck's nest, and in it lay five eggs — 2.31x1.63 — about equally rounded at both ends, perfectly smooth, and of a pale yellowish or cream color. Mr. McFarlane\* found the birds breeding in considerable numbers in the neighborhood of Fort Anderson, and describes a nest containing eight eggs, found June 25, as placed on a ridge of ground at the foot of a dry, stunted pine, made of dark-colored down, being entirely concealed from view by the lower branches of the pine tree. All of the nests found appear to have been of the same style and pattern, and nothing is said of any other material than down being used in building them. The number of eggs varied from five to eight, but the latter number was found in only a single instance.

CLARK'S NUTCRACKER.

(*Picicorvus columbianus* Wils.)

Habitat, the high, coniferous forests of western North America; north to Alaska, south to Arizona, east to the edge of the plains; accidental in Kansas.

Mr. L. L. Jewell, of Irving, kindly sent me for examination a portion of the skin as saved from a male bird, shot August 13, 1888, by Mr. Chas. Netz, near the south

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\* North American Water Birds, B. B. & R., vol. 2, p. 102.

line of Marshall county. Dr. Cooper met with a straggling pair at Fort Kearney, Nebraska, and Mr. G. S. Agersborg, a pair in southeastern Dakota, but like the Kansas visitor, accidental wanderers. They are seldom found below an altitude of 4,000 feet. This bird has the actions and habits of several species. Like the jays, are at times noisy and in flocks, and when upon the ground, hop about in the same manner; it clings like the woodpeckers to the side of a tree while it hunts for, and extracts from old excavations, interstices of the bark, etc., the various forms of life found therein, and its flight is similar, and in clasping with its sharp claws the cones on the pines, and other coniferous trees, in order to pry with its bill for the seeds, it often hangs head downward, swaying back and forth, with the ease and movements of the Titmice. The birds are very shy, and, at or near their nesting-places, silent.

In May, 1879, my brother found the birds breeding near Fort Garland, Colorado. It was too late in the season for their eggs, but in one nest he found young birds; says the old bird sat very close, only leaving when touched by his hand. The nest was built near the end of a horizontal limb of a pine tree, about ten feet from the ground, in an open, conspicuous situation. It was bulky, and coarsely constructed of twigs, sticks, strips of bark, rootlets, grass, moss, etc., and very deeply hollowed; the bird, when on it, showing only part of her bill and tail, pointing almost directly upward. At a distance, would be taken for a squirrel's nest. Capt. Chas. Bendire writes me that, during the month of April, 1876-8, he found, in the vicinity of Camp Harney, Oregon, quite a number of their nests (described as above) with eggs, and gives the following dimensions of four eggs: 1.30x.92, 1.26x.95, 1.22x.95, 1.20x.90. Usual number, three; ground color, light grayish green, irregularly spotted and blotched with a deeper shade of gray, principally about the larger end; elongate oval in shape, and considerably pointed at the smaller end.

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### THREE NEW KANSAS BIRDS.

BY PROF. H. SNOW, OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS.

I have the pleasure of announcing the addition of three species to the catalogue of Kansas birds since the last annual meeting of the Academy. These additions are of especial interest since each of the three forms is a typical species and not a colorational or local variety of some species previously known to occur in the State.

1. The first of these birds is the Surf Duck, or Surf Scoter, *Oidemia perspicillata* Linn. A young male was shot at Lawrence, October 29, 1887, by Mr. A. L. Bennett, a student of the University. This species is abundant along both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. It is said to be a common winter resident upon Lake Michigan, occurring throughout the State of Illinois during the winter season. Its capture at Lawrence, Kansas, extends its recorded appearance in the interior of the United States by about 400 miles. This individual appeared to be a solitary bird, entirely unaccompanied by other ducks either of its own or any other species.

2. The second addition to our bird fauna is the Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis* Lawr. A young male of this species was shot on the Kansas river, at Lawrence, November 3, 1887, by a colored man living on the bank of the river, with whom I have an arrangement to bring in any bird of an unusual character which he may capture. This species has not previously been taken farther east than Manitoba, and the Gila river in New Mexico. Its occurrence at Lawrence extends its eastward range more than a thousand miles. The widening of the Kansas river by the Lawrence mill-dam affords a specially attractive halting-place for waterfowl. It was at the same place that the Surf Scoter was captured by Mr. Bennett only a few days